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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND
SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION
UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by the World Federation of Trade
Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status
(category I), by the American Association of Jurists, the
International Fellowship of Reconciliation, the International
League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Pax Christi
International, Pax Romana, non-governmental organizations in
consultative status (category II), and by the Centre Europe-Tiers
Monde, a non-governmental organization on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council
resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[12 August 1992]

1. There was no let up last year in serious violations of the basic
principles of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. We therefore
welcome the decision the Commission on Human Rights took in its
resolution 1992/67 dated 4 March 1992 to extend for a further year the mandate
of the Special Representative appointed to submit an interim report to the
General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

2. We would like the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to adopt a resolution at its current session strongly condemning the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its continuing violations of the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. In recent months, there has been an unprecedented increase in repression in the Islamic Republic of Iran. At least seven large demonstrations in the main cities were violently put down by the pasdarans. Over 1,000 persons were arrested as a result of these demonstrations and nobody knows what has become of them. Reports also indicate that many of them have been executed.
4. The Iranian regime has officially announced the execution of four demonstrators in Mashad and nine others in Shiraz. However, organizations which monitor the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran consider that the number of executions is much higher. Most of these victims were executed because of their real or alleged sympathies with the Mojahedin. On 31 May 1992, Mr. Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, quoted Ayatollah Khomeiny as saying that "As far as the Mojahedin are concerned, the death sentence is applicable to the organization as a whole and not to individuals so that there will be no hesitation in labelling persons as 'enemies of God' and 'corruptors on Earth'" (Eteelaat newspaper). These two accusations are punishable by the death penalty in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This verdict has again been widely disseminated in the Government daily newspapers.
5. On 10 June, Mr. Khamene'i, the leader of the current regime, referring on a radio programme to demonstrators and persons who had been arrested, said that: "The forces of law and order have to treat them like weeds that have to be chopped down and burned". In endorsing this statement, Mr. Rafsanjani and the regime's senior leaders openly called for increased repression and executions.
6. This was what prompted the Iranian regime to put an end to the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and expel its delegation. The significance of this decision is understandable in the light of the efforts the Islamic Republic of Iran made in the United Nations General Assembly in 1991, when it agreed to allow ICRC to visit its prisons in order to neutralize a resolution condemning it. Since ICRC's expulsion, Iranian prisons are no longer being visited by any international body.
7. Repression by the Iranian regime does not stop at the country's borders. Throughout Europe, its official agents are hunting down opponents mercilessly. The murder of Professor Kazem Radjavi, a great defender of human rights, is the most striking example. The Swiss examining magistrate in charge of the investigation clearly showed that the Iranian authorities were responsible for this murder. In addition, the press agencies reported the kidnapping on 4 June 1992 of a member of the Mojahedin in Turkey and the two bomb attacks on his vehicles.
8. The barbarity of the Iranian regime cannot fail to make an impression on the enlightened conscience of mankind. In his report to the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1992/34), the Special

Representative stated that: "The number of executions has increased week by week, with no sign of any reduction" (para. 409) and "Reported methods of torture included flogging with whips or cables on the feet or on the back, suspension by the wrists, deprivation of sleep for extended periods and various forms of psychological torture" (para. 128). In paragraph 478, he concluded that: "The Government of Iran should once again be urgently called upon to comply with international human rights standards".

9. In view of the continued repression - 16 persons were hanged in Hamadan (western part of the country) on Thursday, 30 July 1992 - the above-mentioned organizations request the Chairman and the Experts of the Sub-Commission to adopt, in a strong resolution expressing the Sub-Commission's concern about serious and constant violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The strengthening of the Special Representative's mandate is necessary and ICRC has to be able to carry out its humanitarian work.



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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
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Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 15

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Written statement submitted by the International Federation
Terre des Hommes, a non-governmental organization in
consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[31 July 1992]

1. The year 1992 marks the five-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Europeans in the Americas. For the indigenous populations of the region it is not an anniversary to be greeted with joyous celebration but, on the contrary, a painful reminder of many human rights violations, particularly extrajudicial executions together with the ravages of famine and disease. So far the rights of the indigenous populations of the Americas have not been fully respected and those populations have to face many forms of discrimination.

2. In Colombia there are approximately 300,000 persons in the indigenous population group. Colombian legislation on the recognition of their rights and the protection of their lands is generally considered to be progressive. Nevertheless, maltreatment of indigenous persons is still being reported. Despite the Government's repeated statements concerning its commitment to human rights, the military and paramilitary groups are continuing to perpetrate serious abuses with complete impunity.

3. The International Federation Terre des Hommes (FITDH) is deeply concerned about the recent murders, in Colombia, of members of the Cauca Indigenous Regional Council (CRIC) and their associates. CRIC is an organization working in partnership with one of the members of FITDH.

4. For example, on 29 May 1992 Oscar Elias López was killed in the town of Santander in the Department of Cauca by armed men: he was legal adviser to CRIC. His death was clearly announced in advance, since he, like other associates of CRIC, had already received many threats.

5. The death of Oscar Elias López took place in a context of generalized violence which characterizes the situation of the indigenous populations of Cauca. CRIC has participated in the activities of the indigenous populations of the department in their attempt to recover ancestral lands which they claim to have been granted at the time of the Spanish colonization. That claim is contested by big landowners, who are resorting to all sorts of methods of intimidation to dissuade the Indians from proceeding with their action.

6. On 16 December 1991 at least 20 members of the Paez indigenous community, including women and children, were massacred. They had occupied a property called "El Nilo" at Caloto, in Cauca. They were killed by around 60 armed men, probably from the police, who burst into the building where a meeting of the Indians was being held. This massacre is the culmination of a very tense situation. Since early December the Indians had been subjected to pressures and threats. On 7 December a group of armed men, accompanied by a lawyer, had visited the property occupied by the Indians to demand their immediate evacuation. The families of the Paez group refused to obey and asked for the protection of the authorities, which, nevertheless, took no action on their request. On 8 January 1992 three men who were making an independent inquiry into the massacre were also killed or disappeared. At the same time CRIC announced that, since the massacre, five of its leaders had received death threats.

7. It appears that in the Cauca region paramilitary groups are continuing to create a climate of terror against the indigenous populations and are able to act with total impunity. Consequently FITDH wishes to recommend to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that it should invite the Government of Colombia:

(a) To make public the results of the inquiry into the massacre of 20 Indians of the Paez group in December 1991 and to institute judicial proceedings concerning the death or disappearance of the three independent investigators in January 1992 and the murder of Oscar Elias López on 29 May 1992;

(b) To prosecute all those responsible for murders and massacres and to punish them appropriately;

(c) To take all necessary measures to protect the lives of those working with the Paez community and to permit them to continue their work as lawyers without having to be afraid of any reprisals.
